

MINTUES FOR GIG HARBOR CITY COUNCIL MEETING Monday, April 12, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.

Due to public health concerns, this meeting was held remotely.

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL:

Mayor Kuhn called roll: Councilmembers Abersold, Denson, Franich, Himes, Markley, Rodenberg, and Woock

Staff: City Administrator Bob Larson, Community Development Director Katrina Knutson, Chief Kelly Busey, Public Works Director Jeff Langhelm, Finance Director David Rodenbach, Building Official / Fire Marshal Paul Rice, Tourism / Communications Director Laura Pettitt, City Clerk Molly Towslee, and Assistant City Clerk Josh Stecker

City Attorney Daniel Kenny

Guests: Linda Pitcher, Skansie Netshed Foundation, Louise Tieman, Parks Commission, Greg Hoeksema, Planning Commission, Brett Marlo-Desantis, Design Review Board, Larry Bleich, Citizens on Patrol, and George Pollitt, Community Volunteer

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Girls Scout Troop 41049 Members Maddison and McKenna

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. a) City Council Minutes Mar. 22, 2021;  [↩](#) b) City Council Special Meeting Mar. 23, 2021;  [↩](#) c) City Council Special meeting Mar. 25, 2021;  [↩](#) d) Council Study Session Mar. 4, 2021;  [↩](#) e) Council Study Session Mar. 11, 2021  [↩](#)
2. Receive and File: a) Skansie Netshed Foundation Year End Report;  [↩](#) b) Planning Commission Minutes Mar. 4 and Mar. 18, 2021;  [↩](#) c) Shaw Park Instrument Donation Letter;  [↩](#) d) Proclamation for Volunteer Appreciation Week;  [↩](#) e) Planning / Building Minutes Mar. 1, 2021;  [↩](#) f) Intergovernmental Affairs Committee Minutes Mar. 22, 2021;  [↩](#) g) Boards and Candidate Review Minutes Mar. 15 and Mar. 22, 2021  [↩](#)
3. R-1204 WWTP Surplus Equipment  [↩](#)
4. R-1205 GHPD Surplus Equipment  [↩](#)
5. Railway Carriages at Eddon Boat Building – Purchase Authorization  [↩](#)
6. Masonic Lodge Preschool Lease Amendment  [↩](#)
7. Wilkinson Farmhouse Lease Amendment  [↩](#)

8. [Soundview Forest House Lease Amendment](#)  
9. [Parks Commission Appointment](#)  
10. Lift Station #12 (Woodhill Drive) Rehabilitation Project – Professional Services Contract
Amendment #1/Kennedy Jenks Consultants, Inc.  
11. Approval of Payroll for the month of March: Checks #8258 through #8266 and direct deposit transactions in the total amount of \$481,937.71
12. Approval of vouchers for April 12, 2021: Checks #95032 through #95144 and direct deposit transactions in the total amount of \$1,176,885.67

MOTION: Move to approve the Consent Agenda.
Himes / Woock – motion passed 7-0

PRESENTATION:

1. [Skansie Netshed Foundation Year End Report](#)  . Linda Pitcher, Anthropologist and Volunteer at the Skansie Netshed, provided an overview of the Skansie Netshed Foundation, programs, and displays, the year-end report, events and activities that occur at the Skansie Netshed.

2. [Volunteer Appreciation Week Proclamation](#). Mayor Kuhn shared a statement of recognition and appreciation for our many volunteers whom he categorized as a “very dedicated group of people who provide great support for our city.” He then read the proclamation and invited representatives of the volunteer groups to say a few words.

Louise Tieman, Parks Commission, Greg Hoeksema, Planning Commission, Brett Marlo-Desantis, Design Review Board, Larry Bleich, Citizens on Patrol, and George Pollitt, Community Volunteer all shared a brief summary of their reasons for volunteering and accepted the proclamation on behalf of our community volunteers. All voiced appreciation for the recognition.

MAYOR’S REPORT:

1. [Donations](#): Mayor Kuhn began by recognizing and thanking the Rotary Club and representative Pamela Peterson for the donation of a fourth musical instrument at Shaw Park called “Contrabass Chimes.” He then thanked Gloria Riley for the donation of a Memorial Bench at Skansie Brothers Park. He reported that two more donations are in the works: benches at Wilkinson Farm Park and a water dispenser near the baseball fields at City Park at Crescent Creek.

2. [Governor’s Announcement on Return to Phase 2](#). Mayor Kuhn shared the announcement that Pierce County will return to Phase 2 on Friday. He said that he has spoken to as representative at the governor’s office and Dr. Chin about the possibility of Gig Harbor remaining in Phase 3, but it doesn’t look encouraging. He will keep trying, but it’s up to the community to bring the numbers down.

3. [AWC Legislative Agenda Update: HB-1220 and HB-1099](#)   The Mayor said the city is asking for letters of support from the community for two crucial transportation infrastructure projects in line for federal funding. He announced where a template could be downloaded and sent to Congressman Kilmer. Mayor Kuhn said he spoke with the State

House Transportation Committee in support of the transportation package and separately, informed the city's lobbyists that he could not support State House Bills 1099 and 1220 which would force the city to allow higher density in R-1 zones.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

1. [YMCA Update](#)     City Administrator Bob Larson explained that two weeks ago, the city and the YMCA issued a joint statement on the progress of the Sports Complex project. The YMCA has advised the city that they will need more time due to COVID, and the ground-breaking for Phase 1A may not occur until in spring of 2023. Mr. Larson shared funding plans and said the city is committed to moving forward with Phase 1B while working with the YMCA on an interlocal agreement for 1A. This will help meet the needs of our growing community.

[Public Works Director Jeff Langhelm](#) addressed questions on the anticipate completion date for Phase 1B. He said best case scenario will be a ground-breaking in summer of 2022.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Mayor Kuhn announced that the Council received quite a few comments on the fireworks ordinance that will be mentioned during the agenda item.

[Thomas Wick](#) voiced his concerns: the city disregarded the offer of money to perform a drainage evaluation on his property, that his records request was not provided, someone is trying to access his email, there is sewage in the harbor, and the harbor is filling with silt from Donkey Creek.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. [Second Reading of Ordinance 1457 – City Assumption of the Transportation Benefit](#)

[District](#)   Finance Director David Rodenbach presented the second reading of this ordinance to assume all rights and functions for the Transportation Benefit District. There was no public comment.

MOTION: Move to adopt Ordinance 1457
Woock / Franich – motion passed 7-0

2. [Second Reading of Ordinance 1458 Amending the 2021 Budget](#)   Finance Director David Rodenbach presented the second reading of this ordinance to adopt updated salary ranges. There was no public comment.

MOTION: Move to adopt Ordinance 1458
Rodenberg / Himes – motion passed 7-0

3. [Second Reading of Ordinance 1459 Ancich Waterfront Overwater Structures](#)   Public Works Director Jeff Langhelm presented the updated ordinance and addressed questions. Councilmembers suggested amendments to clerical errors. There were no public comments.

MOTION: Move to adopt Ordinance 1459
Franich / Himes – motion passed 7-0

NEW BUSINESS:

1. [First Reading of Ordinance Amending Fireworks Regulations](#)   Building Official / Fire Marshal Paul Rice provided the background for this ordinance to limit the discharge of fireworks to one day, the Fourth of July. He explained that state law requires any changes to fireworks regulations must be adopted at least 12 months prior to the effective date.

[Chief Busey](#) commented that any change could put his department in a position where they may not be able to enforce the regulations and therefor, not meet the expectations of the citizens.

[Mayor Kuhn opened public comment.](#) City Administrator Larson read the one written comment submitted for public comment:

[Dave Miller, Tyler Miller, Joey Hugo, Ana Hugo, and Kevin Jansen](#) jointly manage a TNT Fireworks Stand and expressed opposition to the limit of discharge to one day due to the impacts it would have on sales and families who may celebrate the holiday on the weekend.

[Randy Curly – Area Manager for TNT Fireworks](#) spoke on opposition of the amendment, saying the change of days would cause confusion as Pierce County has not changed. He's a veteran and understands the concerns with PTSD but said we fought to create these freedoms of expression.

[Hannah Carrol](#) and her family run the TNT fireworks stand at the old Main and Vine lot, and said she is opposed to the amendment. She said it's not a question of safety, but of noise which would be hard to enforce. This would cause confusion.

[Curt Carroll – 2711 22nd Ave Ct NW](#) is a coach at Gig Harbor High School and said this law would be hard to enforce as it's outside state law and would cause further confusion. He said his family run stand is a voice for safety and wish they would have been consulted with this decision.

[John Johnson](#), Assistant Chief at Gig Harbor Fire District shared data on fireworks injuries and increased calls for service for injuries and fires. He voiced concern with the affect on pets and those with PTSD. He suggested reaching out to other jurisdictions who have successfully limited or eliminated the discharge of fireworks. He supports the one-day limit.

[Thomas Wick](#) voiced support of limited it to one day and voiced concern with unsupervised children using fireworks. He said he is concerned that the citizens are interested in the noise issue but not the sewage washing into the harbor.

[Jason Trout](#) Regional Manager for TNT Fireworks says they try to be good community partners; they operate in 49 states and have seen the public concern with fireworks. They are willing share what other communities have done and to help to come to a satisfactory agreement and help their non-profit organizations that rely upon these funds.

[There were no further public](#) with raised hands so the Mayor closed public comments at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Kuhn recognized all those who sent emails.

[Fire Marshall Rice](#) said that 174 responses had been received. The vast majority were noise complaints, and concerns with pets and those with PTSD. He addressed questions as Council and the Mayor deliberated and shared comments on the amendment.

Council discussed asking Staff to reach out to other jurisdictions to find out the impacts of reducing or eliminating fireworks. [Community Development Director Katrina Knutson](#) clarified that Fire Marshal Rice and Chief Busey have the data on what other jurisdictions have done; what's not known is how people feel about the subject. She continued to say that if Council adopts the amendment there is one year in which to educate the public. Staff will reach out to the others for educational tools.

[This will return for a second reading at the next meeting.](#) A brief recess was called at 7:49 p.m. Council returned to regular session at 7:59 p.m.

2. [Eddon Boat Brick House – Professional Services Contract Amendment #5](#)  

Public Works Director Jeff Langhelm presented the background for this contract amendment to allow for the inspection and repair design for an unstable brick chimney in the kitchen.

Council deliberated on the necessity of doing a complete rebuild of a non-functioning chimney to keep the building on the Historic Registry. Mr. Langhelm explained that the Design Review Board was given three options, and they recommended it be rebuilt. Ms. Knutson shared the criteria for repairs to an Historic Building.

The deliberation continued.

[Thomas Wick](#) said he is concerned with the amount of energy being spent over something that is not even functioning. He compared it to the drainage path from development on Hunt and how the city picks and chooses what's important, which is troubling.

There were no further public comments.

Councilmember Woock offered a motion:

MOTION: Move to approve and authorize the Mayor to execute Amendment No. 5 to the Professional Services contract with SHKS Architects in an amount not to exceed \$5,260.00.
Woock / Denson –

After continued discussion of other improvements made to the building an amendment was offered:

[AMENDMENT:](#) Move to request SHKS to perform a structural analysis of the chimney for \$500.
Franich / Abersold -

City Attorney Daniel Kenney asked whether SHKS would be amenable to this modification of the contract. Mr. Langhelm explained that they signed on the full scope, but he believes we could work on this first step and then decide where to go.

AMENDMENT: Move to request SHKS to perform a structural analysis of the chimney for \$500.
Franich / Abersold – roll call:

Abersold – yes; Denson – yes; Franich – yes; Himes – yes; Markley – yes; Rodenbach – no; Woock – yes. Motion passed 6-1

MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED: Move to request SHKS to perform a structural analysis of the chimney for \$500
Woock / Denson – motion passed 7-0

3. [Conservation Futures Property Consultant Services Contracts](#)   Public Works Director Jeff Langhelm shared the background for these three contracts to provide for an appraisal, for an environment assessment, and for a survey of the 11.5-acre parcel north of the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

[Thomas Wick](#) – shared concern that the city is doing their “due diligence” on this property. He did that on his properties. State law says you can’t flood a wetland, but the city is going to do it. He can’t stop the development and can’t do anything with the drainage on his property. There were no further public comments. [Mr. Langhelm](#) and Councilmember Denson provided clarifying information.

MOTION: Move to authorize the Mayor to sign the three professional services contracts associated with the City’s 2021 conservation futures grant application.
Himes /Woock – motion passed 7-0

COUNCIL REPORTS / COMMENTS:

1. [Planning & Building Committee](#): Councilmember Himes reported on the presentation they received from Gary Glein on the Downtown Waterfront parking study which is now including private property spaces. They also received an update on the growth target allocation, the South Sound Housing Authority Program, and had a discussion on variances.

2. [Parks Commission](#): Councilmember Abersold said they welcomed new member Anastacia Wright. There was a presentation from the Harbor History Museum, information on parks facility maintenance, the Adopt a Park program, and the Ancich Human Powered Storage facility.

[Councilmember Franich](#) thanked the Planning/Building Committee for staying on top of the growth management bills. He sat through 3 hours of the Tacoma Planning Commission testimony regarding increasing density in the R-1 zones. He then asked for a proclamation thanking the grocery store and retail workers, saying we owe a debt of gratitude to them for working through the pandemic.

[Councilmember Woock](#) praised the idea of a proclamation and asked that we include all essential workers. She then commented on the 174 comments regarding limiting fireworks and added that Gig Harbor has the power of initiative and referendum and so the citizens still have a say.

They Mayor asked Council to email Josh with ideas for the proclamation.

[Councilmember Abersold](#) said the COVID virus is not winding down, and it may get much worse. He cited statistics on the virus and effectiveness of the vaccine. He advised our citizens and businesses to take precautions. Mayor Kuhn added additional data on the variant of the virus.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF OTHER MEETINGS:

1. Public Works Committee: Tue. Apr 13 at 3:00 p.m.
2. Boards and Candidate Review Committee: Apr. 19 CANCELLED

ADJOURN

MOTION: Move to adjourn at 9:05 p.m.
Franich / Markley – unanimously approved

Mayor Kit Kuhn

Molly Towslee, City Clerk